

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 252857

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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EXDIS

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TAGS:PFOR, LE, UK

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION

REF: (A) LONDON 15863; (B) BEIRUT 12980

1. THIS CABLE WILL BRING YOU UP TO DATE ON ACTIONS WE HAVE BEEN TAKING DURING LAST TEN DAYS CONCERNING LEBANON (ASIDE FROM OCT. 22 KIDNAPPING). AS A RESULT OF HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW OF SITUATION HERE, WE HAVE INSTRUCTED OUR EMBASSIES IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES (SYRIA, SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, EGYPT, FRANCE) TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS WITH HOPE THAT LATTER WILL USE THEIR INFLUENCE TOWARD CALMING SITUATION IN LEBANON. THRUST OF THESE REPRESENTATIONS HAS BEEN TO STRESS NOT ONLY SERIOUS RISK TO STABILITY OF LEBANON ITSELF, BUT THREAT OF RENEWED MIDDLE EAST HOSTILITIES IF SYRIA AND ISRAEL SHOULD BE LED TO INTERVENE MILITARILY IN LEBANESE SITUATION. IN EACH CASE, OUR EMBASSY HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CONSULTING RE WHAT MIGHT BE DONE, AND URGED HOST

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 252857

GOVERNMENT USE ITS INFLUENCE IN LEBANESE SITUATION

TO URGE MODERATION.

2. IN SEVERAL CASES, OUR REPRESENTATIONS HAVE PUT EMPHASIS
ON PARTICULAR GROUPS WITHIN LEBANON. THUS, WITH SAUDIS
AND KUWAITIS WE HAVE IN PARTICULAR POINTED TO CONSTRUCTIVE

ROLE PLAYED BY LEADERSHIP OF MAIN PALESTINIAN GROUPS (PLO/
FATAH AND SAIQA) AND EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF THEIR
HOLDING TO MODERATE TACK. WITH FRANCE WE HAVE DISCUSSED
NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY ON PART OF LEBANESE CHRISTIANS.

3. WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE RECOGNIZE NEED FOR SOME
SHIFT IN PRESENT DIVISION OF POWER IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE
STABLE AND FAIR SITUATION. WE ARE NOT INVOLVING OURSELVES
IN NATURE OF ANY NEW ARRANGEMENT, BUT WE WOULD ASSUME THAT,
TO BE STABLE, IT MUST ALSO BE ACCEPTABLE TO MODERATE
CHRISTIANS AND HENCE SHOULD NOT UNDERMINE BASIC RIGHTS OF
CHRISTIANS.

4. WE ARE ALSO CONSULTING WITH ISRAELIS ABOUT LEBANON,
URGING RESTRAINT IN CONNECTION WITH SITUATION THERE.

5. YOU MAY DRAW ON FOREGOING IN EXCHANGING VIEWS WITH
HOST GOVERNMENT ON SITUATION. INGERSOLL

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